

is at Lorrach.<sup>1</sup> He will see all the Germans who are there. I confidently rely on him, and believe his journey will have a good result. Caulaincourt will give him his instructions.<sup>7</sup>"

Notwithstanding my extreme surprise at this communication I replied without hesitation that I could not accept the mission; that it was offered too late. "It perhaps is hoped," said I, "that the bridge of Bale will be destroyed, and that Switzerland will preserve her neutrality. But I do not believe any such thing; nay, more, I know positively to the contrary. I can only repeat, the offer comes much too late." — "I am very sorry for this resolution," observed Savary, "but Caulaincourt will perhaps persuade you. The Emperor wishes you to go to the Due de Yicence to-morrow at one o'clock; he will acquaint you with all the particulars, and give you your instructions."<sup>3</sup> — "He may acquaint me with whatever he chooses, but I will not go to Lorrach." — "You know the Emperor better than I do, he wishes you to go, and he will not pardon your refusal." — "He may do as he pleases, but no consideration shall induce me to go to Switzerland." — "You are wrong: but you will reflect on the matter between this and to-morrow morning. Night will bring good counsel. At any rate, do not fail to go to-morrow at one o'clock to Caulaincourt, he expects you, and directions will be given to admit you immediately."

Next morning the first thing I did was to call on M. de Talleyrand. I told him what had taken place, and as he was intimately acquainted with Caulaincourt, I begged him to speak to that Minister in favor of my resolution. M<sup>r</sup>. de Talleyrand approved of my determination not to go to Switzerland, and at one o'clock precisely I proceeded to M. de Caulaincourt's. He told me all he had been instructed to say. From the manner in which he made the communication I concluded that he himself considered the proposed mission a disagreeable one, and unlikely to be attended by any useful result. I observed that he must have heard from Savary that I had already expressed my determination to decline the mis--

<sup>1</sup> Lorrach is a village two miles from Bale, the place fixed on for the starting-point of the Austro-Russian army. — *Boyrrienne*.